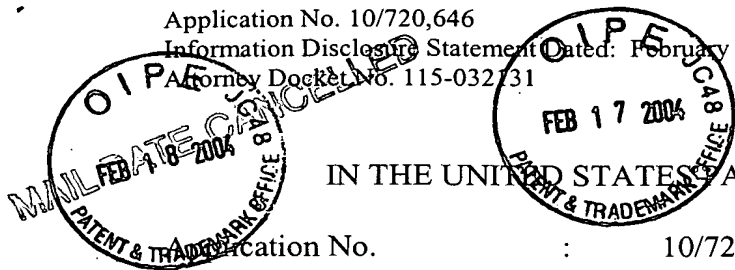


Application No. 10/720,646

Information Disclosure Statement Dated: February 11, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 115-032731



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/720,646

Applicant : Heini ZOLLINGER

Filed : November 24, 2003

Title : **METHOD OF PRODUCING A JOINTLESS  
AND POROUS GRANULAR COVERING, AND  
GRANULAR COVERING PRODUCED BY THIS  
METHOD**

Group Art Unit : *Not Yet Assigned*

Examiner : *Not Yet Assigned*

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement, which includes a completed Form PTO/SB/08A and one (1) copy of each foreign reference identified therein.

This application corresponds to and claims priority to European Patent Application No. 02406018.8, filed November 25, 2002. The references identified on Form PTO/SB/08A were cited in a European Patent Office Search Report dated April 28, 2003 in the counterpart European application. A copy of the European Patent Office Search Report is also enclosed herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 11, 2004.

Theresa Ulinski

(Typed name of person depositing mail)

*Theresa Ulinski*  
Signature

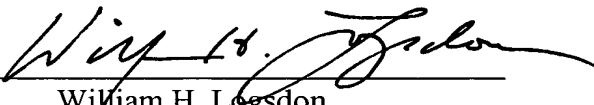
02/11/2004  
Date

The cited references are relevant for the reasons stated in the European Search Report.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, it is timely under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(b)(1) and (3) and no fee is required. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. One (1) original and two (2) copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Approved for use through 10/31/2001. OMB 0651-0031

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1

of

1

Application Number

10/720.646

Filing Date

November 24, 2003

First Named Inventor

Heini ZOLLINGER

Group Art Unit

*Not Yet Assigned*

Examiner Name

*Not Yet Assigned*

Attorney Docket Number

115-032131

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner  
Signature

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Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter

code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial

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possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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